
COINS

\$100 possible for dual-mark 1980 D-S cent

By Roger Boye

A California collector has found a 1980-D penny that could be worth as much as \$100 because of an unusual second mint mark on the coin.

While scrutinizing his Lincoln cent, the hobbyist discovered parts of a faint "S" mint mark slightly above and to the right of the normal "D" mint mark. (Coins with a "D" are made in Denver; "S" is used on proof coins minted in San Francisco.)

Alan Herbert, one of two experts to examine the cent, described it in detail in a Numismatic News article. He surmised that workers at the Denver Mint produced some 1980-D Lincoln cents from a coin die that was supposed to have been used to make 1980-S proof sets in San Francisco.

Most likely, mint employees decided to scrape the "S" mint mark from the proof die and then punch in a "D" mint mark so they could use the die in Denver. They did just that, but accidentally left part of the "S" mint mark on the die.

Herbert said that the Denver Mint

could have made only a few hundred of the 1980 "D-S cents," or as many as a million, depending on how long the die was used (a cent die wears out after making about a million coins).

"We are estimating that, unless unusually large quantities of the coin show up, it should trade in the \$100 area in top grade," Herbert said.

Since his story appeared in Numismatic News, Herbert has heard from owners of about 50 similar Lincoln cents.

The previous major coin error involving mint marks, a 1955 nickel with an "S" on top of the "D" mint mark, retails for about \$35 in uncirculated condition.

Footnote: 1980-D Lincoln cents without any trace of an "S" mint mark are extremely common and worth only 1 cent.

● More than 130 dealers will buy and sell rare coins next weekend at a show sponsored by the National Numismatic Network. Hours will be from noon to 9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. next Sunday at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, 720 S. Michigan Av.

Also, coins will be on sale next Sunday at the annual show of the Northwest Suburban Coin Club at the Arlington Place Hotel, just north of the intersection of Arlington Heights Road and the Northwest Tollway in Arlington Heights.

Admission will be free at both shows.